

parliamentary seat, for he was no orator. Thus, like some others, he might have become a mere hanger-on of the Republican party, one of those who only secured a real livelihood subsequent to Thiers and MacMahon, when Gambetta's influence again became paramount in France.

i. His refusal, at the first opportunity, of the sub-prefectoral appointment which he had only accepted as a *pis-aller*, was therefore wise. He could not get rid of politics, whatever may have been his desires, but he at least confined himself to the duties of a political journalist. He became a correspondent of "Le Semaphore," the chief daily paper of Marseilles, his connection with which lasted seven years. Further he placed himself in communication with "La Cloche" of Paris, for which he had written a few articles previous to the Siege, and which, curiously enough, was directed by Louis Ulbach, — the novelist and critic who had denounced "The*rese Raquin" as "putrid literature."

That quarrel, apparently, had been patched up, and Zola and Ulbach, while remaining of antagonistic literary schools, had found some basis of agreement in politics. At all events the former now became the descriptive parliamentary correspondent of "La Cloche," recording the doings of the National Assembly, first at Bordeaux, later at

Versailles,
his connection with this journal lasting till the
summer of
1872, when he carried his pen to " Le Corsaire,"
for which
he wrote several fiery political articles, one of
which, called
"The Morrow of the Crisis"¹ almost led to the
paper's
suppression.

¹ This was a crisis provoked by Thiers' Presidential
Message of November
13, 1872, by which he asked for the definite constitution of a
Eepublic, a pro-
posal which led to a great outcry on the part of those who
wished to place the
Count de Oharabord or the Count de Paris on the throne.